

IV. Advanced Class VEs for the General Class

I would support the proposal to allow Advanced Class licensees to be VEs for the General Class, but if the initial proposal to reduce the number of class licensee from six down to three, that would illuminate this Advanced Class proposal.

V. Phasing out RACES Station Callsigns

I am in favor of phasing out RACES station callsigns.

VI. Enforcement in the Amateur Radio Service

I can remember the days of "Official Observer" notices for I had received a few and believe me you took remedial action immediately. Currently I see a general deterioration of operator attitudes on various bands, which certainly is detrimental to the professionalism of ham band operators. I refer to band edge violations, profanity, improperly tuned radio equipment, "this is my frequency" and a host of other situations which is not becoming of the ethics supposedly applied to this hobby.

I would like to see an "Official Observer" program which is sanctioned and supported by the FCC which would provide inputs from the field to call sign violators which would have some "horsepower" behind a report from the field, similar to the ARRL VEC program and the original "OO" program. This program would be on a volunteer basis, but sanctioned and supported by the FCC to those members participating in the program. The amateurs would have to provide credentials qualifying them as candidates to undertake such a program in augmenting the FCC monitoring system. I would be happy to provide my time to monitor on the air comments throughout the spectrum, and violations, which might be identified if I knew the FCC, would take appropriate action against chronic offenders. Since the FCC does not have the resources to monitor the actions of ham operators operating the normal ethics of ham procedures, I feel that us as members of the amateur fraternity, must accept some responsibility to clean up the fraudulent violations which occur daily on the amateur bands.

I would propose the establishment of a FCC organization for the purpose of amateur band monitors consisting of ARRL membership hams, at the extra class license level to assist in band monitoring and provide discrepancy reports to the FCC for further action. This would only apply to violations to US licensed amateur operators. This would be on an voluntary basis, but with violation reports being submitted to the FCC for further action, such support would provide the reporter and the offending station with the notice that the FCC will take remedial action if the discrepancy continues. Such a program would certainly assist the FCC to take action in a much shorter time than the current program allows. (KV4FZ as an example) The sooner chronic violators can be removed from the ham bands; the return of ham professionalism will be evident.

think the requirement for copying CW should be one out of five minutes sent instead of allowing VEs to determine how to test for code speed.

VIII: Written Examination Requirements

I agree that more emphasis should be placed on FCC regulations, and operating practices and procedures beginning at the lowest level of license. For the higher level licenses, there should be a higher technical level in the aspects of amateur radio. This will at least provide an understanding of the technology of the modern solid state equipment whether an amateur builds any equipment. Other than radio amplifiers, it is virtually impossible to build any major equipment, as components are just not available. It is so different than the 1950's when you could buy surplus equipment and/or parts at radio row in New York City. What a fantastic period of time that was!

IX: Conclusions

Amateur Radio has been a "Professional Hobby" but lately it has become an "Operators Hobby" in the attempt to entice more people to become hams. Lowering of the standard level of technical and code proficiency requirements did generate more licensed amateurs but it also lowered the technical and operating proficiency of the operators. I can remember that on a job application, you received additional qualifying score by displaying you ham license. That is not true today. Lets return amateur radio to the professionalism it once enjoyed. Only those that qualify and abide by the rules should be allowed on the airways. We don't need hams on the air for numbers only, the bands are already crowded with the upswing of the solar cycle.

Respectfully submitted by:



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